

## GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

### 1. Introduction

- a. Gifts Inventory with Scripture (*Handout*)
- b. For what purpose?
- c. Operation – Diversity and varied expressions
- d. Activating our Gifts through Service
- e. Marketplace or Ministry

### 2. Gifts of the Spirit - I Corinthians 12: 1-11 – Overview

#### a. Why did Paul write this letter? What was going on here?

- i. The Church in Corinth Had some problems
  - 1 What was going on in their services?
  - 2 Communion – abused. Their abuse the use of spiritual gifts.
  - 3 Problems with the public use of tongues.
  - 4 Misunderstand of the gift operations and the Holy Spirit
  - 5 He had to address the need for loving and unselfish motives of these gifts.

#### b. Paul's letter was to help them in their understanding

- i. Who's the Giver and His role.
- ii. The Body and Unity in the operation of these gifts
- iii. The more excellent way of Love
- iv. Aren't we so glad that Paul loved them so much.

### 3. The Holy Spirit (I Cor. 12 vs. 11)

*All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines*

#### a. Who is the Holy Spirit? He is the gift that keeps on giving!

#### b. Peter said the Holy Spirit was a gift (Acts 2:38,39)

- i. *Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will **receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." – Acts 2:38,39*

#### c. Paul stressed that is wise to live a life under the influence of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:15-20)

- i. *Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, **be filled with the Holy Spirit**, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. – Ephesians 4:15-20*

#### d. Jesus said it better for that he go away! (John 16:7)

- i. *“But I tell you the truth: **It is for your good that I am going away.** Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. – John 16:7*
- ii. The Father and Son are in Heaven but the Holy Spirit is here on Earth with us. This Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God. The power of the Godhead is right here.
- iii. How precious how wonderful. That are Father in heaven did not leave us as orphans but gave us His Spirit and we love him.
- iv. We need to discover this giver of Gifts and his role in our lives as we live by the Spirit.

**e. The Holy Spirit is the Giver of Gifts (I Cor. 12 vs. 11)**

- i. *All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines*
- ii. The gifts are given by the Spirit as he wills from his divine viewpoint (vs. 11)
- iii. We must be a good receiver (*Important!*)

**f. “These gifts are a manifestation of the Spirit” (I Cor. 12:7)**

- i. *Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. I Cor. 12:7*
- ii. These gifts can manifest through us! Why?
- iii. Because the living God, The power source of the Godhead the Holy Spirit dwells in you.
  - 1 *And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you. Romans 8:11*
- iv. We have got to have them! Does the church need these gifts?

**4. Gifts for Giving**

**a. The Gift are given for the purpose of “the common good” (I Cor. 12 vs. 7)**

- i. These are not badges and there not fruit.
- ii. Gifting doesn’t always equal character, and anointing doesn’t equal maturity. (*Illustration: Cathy & Mother Theresa*)
- iii. We want to go low with our gifts. (Humility)

**b. Not for ourselves but others.**

- i. It’s a joy to co-labor with our King.

**c. They are given to bring Him Glory. (*Illustration: A village chief his healed and a village is saved*)**

**5. The Gifts of the Spirit (I Cor. 8-11)**

- a. *To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, to still another the interpretation of tongues. – ( I Cor. Vs 8-11)*

**b. Gifts defined**

- i. **Wisdom:** insight as to how existing knowledge may best be applied for a specific situations or need. 1 Kings 3:16-28 (*Solomon, Marketplace*)
- ii. **Knowledge:** Supernatural revelation of facts about a person or situation. John 4:45-54 (Woman at well) (*Illustration – Friday Night*)
- iii. **Discerning of Spirits:** revelation to discern whether certain behavior is divine, human, or satanic. (Acts 16:16-18)
- iv. **Faith:** The ability to discern with confidence the will of God and to boldly act in response to that confidence. (Hebrews 11)
- v. **Gifts of Healing:** the anointing God releases to cure illness in the emotional, spiritual, or physical areas of a person’s life. (Acts 3:1-10) (*Illustration: Africa & Ears*)
- vi. **Miraculous Powers:** These gifts cause people and things to be changed in an extraordinary (usually beneficial) way by the power of God working through an individual. (Matthew 14:13-28—multiplying food, *Africa food multiplied*)
- vii. **Prophecy:** special ability to receive and communicate a message from God to a gathered group or individuals. (1 Cor. 14:3, 1 Cor. 14: 22-25)
- viii. **Tongues:** the ability to speak to God in a language never learned and/or to speak a language never learned publicly as a message from God (1 Cor. 14:2, 13-19)
- ix. **Interpretation of Tongues:** the ability to make known to the hearers the message of one who speaks in tongues. (1 Cor. 14:13)

c. **These Gifts come in degrees and measures (prophecy vs. prophet, healing gifts)**

d. **Can we GROW in our gift? Yes, when we GO! We grow.**

## 6. Unwrapping your Spiritual Gifts – PRAY, GO and GROW!

a. **It’s ok to desire spiritual gifts.**

- i. *“Follow **the way of love** and **eagerly desire spiritual gifts**, especially the gift of prophecy. For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God.” – 1 Cor. 14:1, 2*

b. **PRAY, ASK!**

i. **We can ask without fear, with confidence and expectation.**

- 1 *"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. "Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! – Mathew 7:7-11*

ii. **We ask for more so that we can give it away.**

iii. *As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. **Freely you have received, freely give.***

**Mathew 10:7,8**

iv. **I want to be use by God to bless others so let's earnestly desire the gifts and pray for more.**

**c. GO, GO, GO!**

i. We have a part in the manifestation of these gifts. We cannot do God's part and He cannot do ours.

**ii. Our part will require faith (RISK)**

1 Believing is Seeing

2 But when we step out and see our faith increases

3 Our love for God increases

4 If you want to move in gifts of healing you have to pray for the sick.

5 Overcoming unbelief and breaking a spirit of intimidation (*Illustration: Africa, unbelief and healing*)

**iii. Our part will require us to activate what has been given to us by simply doing.**

1 Stepping out in the church. Where, What and How?

2 Stepping out in the marketplace. Where, What and How?

3 Faithful with the little results in more (Luke 19: 17) (*Marisa and the prophetic, praying for the sick*)

**iv. Someone is depending upon you to operate in your gifts!**

1 Who has been blessed here with a prophetic word, healing, and a word of wisdom from the Lord or any of the other gifts?)

2 More than likely it came from someone else who stepped out and was growing in his or her gift.

**d. Growing in the Body.**

i. These are manifestations of the Spirit (I Cor. 12) but all the gifts are important (Leadership, Administration, Mercy, etc.)

ii. We grow as we work together (*illustration: small groups*)

iii. Diversity of Gifts is God's design and a better way to function.

iv. (video)

v. Interdependence on one another and on God (*Illustration: street ministry*)

vi. Unity is important to God and it's there He commands a blessing.

**7. We need you operating in your gifts.**

a. The Kingdom is within - *Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people*

say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is within you." – Luke 17:20

**b. What happens when I am faithful with my gifts?**

- i. People repent, people get saved, people get healed and delivered, works of the devil are destroyed and angels are released.  
Relationships are restored, marriages are renewed and the hearts of the Father towards the children and the children's heart are turned towards the Father.
- ii. The poor are feed, clothed and given shelter, nations are discipled and worship God and the second coming is ushered in
- iii. The Kingdom advances, Jesus is exalted and glory is given to God.

**c. You can GROW in your Spiritual Gifts**

- i. Ask for Help from the Holy Spirit.
- ii. Take Classes here at VCC
- iii. You will grow as you go. Like a muscle you have to use it.
- iv. The fastest way to GROW is GO!

**d. Watch out for Gift Stealers**

- i. Discouragement due to comparison
  - 1 Manifestation focus vs. results (*Illustration: Stuart in Africa, John Arnott*)
  - 2 Exulting one gift over another.
    - a. Sometimes this is a result of our own unbelief
    - b. Sometime an appropriate response.
- ii. It's not a hierarchy it's a body. Don't put yourself above God he knows what gift to give you and what is needed. (Illustration: Voice lessons and Stephen Hudgins)

**8. Moving from a place of Love**

- a. The Gifts and Character
- b. Gifts wrapped in love
- c. The transforming Power of Love

**9. Prayer of Impartation - Timothy**

**10. Time of Activation (Break into groups of 4)**

- a. One person in the middle
- b. Prayer for Revelation
- c. Release words of knowledge, healing, wisdom, etc
- d. Rotate to the next person. Keep is short per person 1 minute.